

umbellifers to certain elements of the Hymenoptera fauna which may prove to be more widespread than was once thought.—R. K. A. Morris, 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

REFERENCE

Falk, S. J. 1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened bees, wasps and ants of Great Britain. Research and Survey in Nature Conservation*, 35. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

***Donacia obscura* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in Wigtonshire.**—During a brief visit to Galloway I stopped in the area of Loch Mochrum to carry out some insect recording on 29.vi.1991. Just to the north is an area of blanket mire with a series of small lochs and lochans. Sweep-netting the sparse stands of bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata* Stokes) near the shores of Loch Hempton (NX 306546) produced a number of *Donacia* beetles which later turned out to be *D. clavipes* F. and *D. obscura*. This appears to be a new county record for the latter. This area of peatland is one of the few in southern Wigtonshire not afforested by the Forestry Commission, and is a nature conservation review grade 2 site (Ratcliffe, 1977).—K. N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 2EF.

REFERENCE

Ratcliffe, D. (ed.) 1977. A nature conservation review. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

***Arhopalus rusticus* (L.) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) on Wimbledon Common.**—In early spring 1992, Mr Tony Drakeford mentioned to me that the dead Scots pines around Caesar's Well in the south-west of Wimbledon Common, Surrey, showed signs of longhorn beetle activity. On 13.vi.1992 I collected a single *Arhopalus* adult there which Dr Roger Booth has identified as *Arhopalus rusticus* L. Dr Booth has found the species near Bournemouth, in Dorset (VC 11, South Hants) and Mr Andrew Halstead has found it at the edge of Wisley Common in Surrey (TQ 065 579), at a light trap. In both cases the beetles were found in or near a similar habitat to Wimbledon Common—heathland with scrub and pine. The species was originally taken in Britain at the turn of the century in Scotland, but has spread south in the last few decades, probably as a result of widespread conifer planting (Kaufmann, 1948, 1990). The indications are that a breeding colony of this species exists on the Common at present. My thanks to Mr Tony Drakeford, Dr Roger Booth, Mr A. J. Halstead, Dr Adrian Henderson and Miss Jean Barnes.—Martin Henderson, 13 Kimble Road, Collier's Wood, London SW19 2AU.

REFERENCES

- Kaufmann, R. R. Uhthoff-. 1948. Notes on the distribution of the British longicorn Coleoptera. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 84: 66–85.
 Kaufmann, R. R. Uhthoff-. 1990. The occurrence of the sub-family Aseminae (Col.: Cerambycidae) in the British Isles. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 102: 55–63.

Further records of deadwood Coleoptera from Nettlecombe Park, Somerset, including *Phloiortya vaudoueri* Mulsant new to the county.—An initial visit to assess the potential of Nettlecombe Park for the specialist fauna of dead and decaying timber was made on 6.vi.1988. This revealed a rich assemblage of species including three not previously recorded in Somerset (Alexander, 1988, 1990). A more detailed investigation was subsequently commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990, when three full days were spent on the site: 3.vi, 29.vii and 5.x. This work has taken the total of saproxylic Coleoptera to 60 species of which the most interesting

from the 1990 visits were as follows (further new county records are marked with an asterisk): *Quedius xanthopus* Er., under loose bark on moist rotting oak logs, 5.x.1990; *Dorcatoma flavicornis* (F.)*, one beaten from oak foliage, 29.vii.1990; *Cis fagi* Waltl, numerous in the fungal mycelia of *Laetiporus sulphureus* (Bull. ex Fr.) Bond & Singer, within red-rotten oak heartwood, 3.vi.1990; *C. hispidus* (Payk.)*, one beneath bark on a rotting oak bough, 5.x.1990; *Pseudotriphyllus suturalis* (F.), knocked in numbers from bracket fungi growing on a long-dead fallen oak trunk and within a live hollow oak, 5.x.1990; *Triphyllus bicolor* (F.)*, knocked from a bracket fungus growing on the trunk of an ancient sweet chestnut, 5.x.1990; *Orchesia undulata* Kraatz, one beneath loose bark on large long-dead fallen oak trunk, 5.x.1990; *Phloiotrya vaudoueri* Mul.*, remains of beetle in rotting beech hulk, 5.x.1990; *Phymatodes testaceus* (L.), adults beneath loose bark on dead oak bough and a fallen dead oak trunk, also larvae, 3.vi.1990; and *Platypus cylindrus* (F.)*, single adult crawling up trunk of large live oak, 29.vii.1990.

Nettlecombe Park has now been notified as a site of special scientific interest.

My thanks to Pat Wolseley for encouraging continued work in the Park, to Mike Edgington of English Nature for arranging finance for the visits, and to Andrew Duff for information on the county status of species.—K. N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 2EF.

REFERENCES

- Alexander, K. N. A. 1988. A relict old forest beetle fauna from Nettlecombe Park in Somerset. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 1: 128.
 Alexander, K. N. A. 1990. *Ptinus subpilosus* Sturm (Coleoptera: Ptinidae) in Somerset. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 3: 128.

***Trachys troglodytes* Gyllenhal (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) and other scarce insects from an unusual wetland area in Cumbria.**—The characteristic eggs and leaf mines of *Trachys troglodytes* were discovered on *Succisa pratensis* Moench growing in a humid heath community within an area of poorly drained pasture at Hollins Farm, Nether Wasdale (NY 105032), 5.vi.1991. This is the first record of this scarce buprestid beetle from the region (VCs 69 and 70), but nicely fills the gap between the known Anglesey localities and an old Dumfries-shire record. Attempts to rediscover the species in the latter area have been unsuccessful.

The site is low-lying land on the flood-plain of the River Irt and comprises about 4 hectares of rushy pasture with a large patch of humid heath and smaller areas of poor marsh and mire, the latter with a system of bog-pools. Also new to the county is the chrysomelid beetle *Chaetocnema confusa* (Boh.), and other beetles present included *Mantura obtusata* (Gyll.) and *Actenicerus sjælandicus* (Muller, O. F.). Other insects included the hoverfly *Microdon mutabilis* (L.), the saldid bug *Salda muelleri* (Gmelin), small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene* D. & S.) and the sawfly *Abia sericea* (L.). These are all characteristic inhabitants of good quality humid heath and mire communities.

The site was investigated as part of the National Trust's Biological Survey Programme and so it is possible to say that it is unique within the Trust's very extensive Cumbrian holdings. Whether or not there are comparable sites under other ownership in the region remains to be seen. Although owned by the National Trust, it lies within an agricultural tenancy and there is no public access. The tenancy agreement includes protective restrictions to ensure that the area is conserved.

My thanks to Michael Cox for confirming my identification of the *Chaetocnema* and to John Read for his comments on the local status of the chrysomelids.—K. N. A. Alexander, National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1QW.